

CALEA 5

- R26



REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

JUN 13 1973

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

No. 95

(Revised April 1973)

THE COMMONWEALTH

As self-government and independence were gradually assumed by the colonies within the British Empire, similarities of language, habits, institutional traditions and working methods convinced many national representatives of the great value of maintaining some form of association in place of the old Empire. The fruit of that decision is the modern Commonwealth. The Commonwealth (or Commonwealth of Nations) is a voluntary association of 33 independent states from six continents and five oceans.⁽¹⁾ Bahamas is the most recent member (July 10, 1973). One of them, Nauru, is a special member which participates fully except for heads of government meetings. It embraces a marvellous diversity of races, languages, religions and cultures and is a unique association where leaders in various fields may on a level of informality and intimacy convene to exchange views on a multitude of questions and attempt to determine what may be usefully done together. In a world which seems in danger of splitting into antagonistic groups based on common interests such as religion, ideology, race, region or economic level of development, the Commonwealth association possesses the unusual ability of being able to transcend interest groups and so bring a global perspective to bear on matters of concern to all members.

The principles of the association were most eloquently expressed in the Commonwealth Declaration, issued at the Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in Singapore in 1971.⁽²⁾ This statement of common principles affirmed Commonwealth members' belief in: the United Nations and its efforts to promote international peace and order; the liberty of the individual and each citizen's inalienable right to participate in framing the society in which he may live; the principles of human dignity and equality and the iniquities of colonial domination and racial oppression; the need for the progressive removal of disparities in wealth existing between different sections of mankind; and the value of the Commonwealth as a most useful means to promote international co-operation. In pursuing these principles the members of the Commonwealth believe that they can provide a constructive example of the multinational approach, something vital to peace and progress in the modern world.

(1) A list of members appears in Appendix A.

(2) The text of the Declaration appears as Appendix C.

In a geographic sense, the term Commonwealth is understood to include self-governing states associated with a Commonwealth member for the purpose of foreign policy and defence, protectorates, protected states, trust territories administered by a member on behalf of the United Nations and territories still dependent on a member. Including dependencies, the Commonwealth covers over one-fifth of the world's land surface and embraces over 860 million people.

Of the 32 full members, 17 have retained a monarchical form of government. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is head of state of Canada and 11 other members. Malaysia has as head of state a monarch elected for a five-year term from among their own members by the nine hereditary Malay rulers of West Malaysia. On attaining independence, four members of the Commonwealth -- Lesotho, Swaziland, Tonga and Western Samoa -- had their pre-eminent chiefs declared king and head of state. Fifteen members of the association have adopted a republican form of government with a president as head of state but all members of the Commonwealth recognize the British Sovereign as the symbol of their free association and as such the Head of the Commonwealth.

Associated states

Within the Commonwealth, the term "associated state" means a country that has attained full internal self-government and has formally assumed a status of association with one of the larger independent members, which becomes responsible for its external affairs and defence. The association is a free and voluntary one, terminable by either country at any time. In the Caribbean region, Antigua, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada are in association with Britain, which retains ultimate responsibility for their external relations and defence. The six countries are known as the West Indies Associated States (WIAS) and, by agreement with Britain, exercise delegated authority over a wide area of external relations. The Cook Islands in the South Pacific also enjoy full internal self-government, but have chosen to be associated with New Zealand.

Dependent territories

In Commonwealth terminology, the phrase "dependent territories" includes some 31 remaining colonies, protectorates, protected states and trust territories. Most of these are dependencies of Britain; a few are dependent on Australia or New Zealand. Australia also administers Papua New Guinea as a United Nations trust territory.⁽³⁾

Evolution of the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth evolved from the British Empire by a gradual process that began in the nineteenth century. Many important developments first occurred in relation to what is now Canada. While there are many possible starting-points, a convenient one is *Lord Durham's Report*, published

(3) A list of the more important remaining dependencies, showing their relations to a metropolitan power, area and population appears as Appendix B.



CANADA

REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

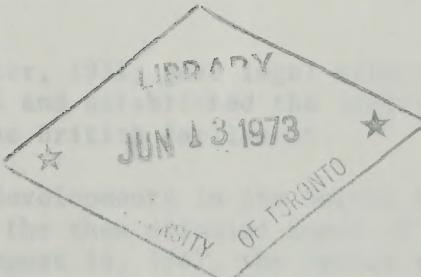
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 95

(Revised April 1973)

Corrigenda:

1. Appendix D -- under "February 1972":
"Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting, London" should be deleted, since this conference did not take place.
2. Appendix E -- under "Imperial Conferences", the 1932 entry reads: "London July 21 - August 20." It should be changed to: "Ottawa July 21 - August 20 (Imperial Economic Conference)".



in 1839 following an inquiry into the causes of the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada in 1836-37. One of Durham's key recommendations was that full self-government should be granted to the governments in the colonies in all matters of concern to them. Under the recommendations of the *Report*, authority was reserved to the Imperial Government only in those fields deemed necessary to maintain imperial unity; such functions included control of foreign relations, the regulation of commerce, the determination of the constitution and the disposal of public lands. All other powers and functions, including the expenditure of public funds, were to be transferred to the colonial governments, to be administered by an executive council responsible to the elected legislative assembly and exercised only so long as they retained the support of a majority in the assembly. Following the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1840, this recommendation was implemented by stages during the next decade, the testing-point being the acceptance of the Rebellion Losses Bill in 1849 by Lord Elgin and by the British Government; this acceptance effectively established the practice of full responsible self-government over the very wide range of matters within the control of the governments in the colonies. Subsequently, the conception of responsible government with a wide area of local autonomy was widely applied throughout the British Empire; the changes flowing from general application of this conception have been immense.

A second major development occurred over the period 1867-1939 as Canada gradually came to assume more and more responsibility for its relations with other countries and for its own defence. Out of the pressures, strains, persuasion and dialogue with Britain up to the Versailles Peace Conference at the end of the First World War, and subsequently in the Twenties and Thirties, Canada, supported on occasion by Australia and the other Dominions, succeeded in asserting its independence from the Imperial power by a series of agreements and precedents that in turn became the basis for further political developments. Following the First World War, Canada and the other Dominions successfully asserted the claim to independent representation at conferences, beginning with Versailles, and to diplomatic representation in foreign countries. The altered relation was registered by a communiqué from the Imperial Conference of 1926. Drawing upon the recommendations of the *Balfour Report*, the communiqué defined Britain and the Dominions as "autonomous Communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations".

The Statute of Westminster, 1931, gave legal effect to the substance of the decisions reached in 1926 and established the legislative equality of the Dominion Parliaments with the British Parliament.

In part as a result of developments in the Second World War, the movement toward independence in the then colonial areas of South and Southeast Asia became irresistible. On August 15, 1947, the Indian subcontinent was divided to create the two sovereign countries of India and Pakistan. A year later, Ceylon (since 1972 Sri Lanka) achieved complete independence.

An important step in the evolution of the modern Commonwealth was taken soon after the birth of these countries. When the Government of India decided to become a republic yet remain within the Commonwealth, a common allegiance to the Crown was no longer a suitable criterion for membership in the association. The communiqué of the April 1949 Prime Ministers' Meeting expressed a freshly-determined role for the British Monarch within the Commonwealth -- that of a symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and as such the Head of the Commonwealth. This new definition enabled numerous states to continue as members of the Commonwealth without any strict uniformity of internal constitutions.

Another key stage in the evolution of the Commonwealth was the repeated reaffirmation during the 1960s that the association was non-racial in character. This was evident at the Prime Ministers' Meeting in March 1961, when, with the assent of the South African leader, Commonwealth representatives discussed racial policies within that country. Such a great number of representatives expressed their disapproval of the principles of *apartheid* contained in the new constitution of South Africa that the South African Prime Minister decided to reassess his Government's desire to remain within the Commonwealth and later withdrew from the association. The issue of Rhodesia, with its racial overtones, has also been prominent within the association ever since unilateral declaration of independence on November 11, 1965. The Commonwealth Sanctions Committee was established by the heads of government at their meeting in Lagos in January 1966, *inter alia*, to review regularly the effect of sanctions and also the special needs which may from time to time arise in honouring the Commonwealth's undertaking to come to the support of Zambia as required. It met most recently on February 19, following the closure of the Rhodesia-Zambia border. The principle of racial equality was reaffirmed in numerous communiqués from the prime ministers' conferences and it assumes a conspicuous place in the Commonwealth Declaration issued by the heads of government at Singapore in January 1971.

Nature of Commonwealth association

The essential functions of the Commonwealth can be stated simply in two words: consultation and co-operation. As expressed in the opening paragraph of the Commonwealth Declaration, Commonwealth governments consult and co-operate in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

Since the members come from all parts of the world, each with different responsibilities and interests and each pursuing policies it judges to be best suited to its interests, it is hardly surprising that agreement on a common course of action is seldom possible. The Commonwealth is not an international organization like the United Nations or the Organization of American States, with a charter and a structured hierarchy of councils and committees, reaching decisions on political and other international issues by formal resolution and majority votes. Nor does it have a continuing executive structure. In 1965, the Commonwealth Secretariat was established to assist Commonwealth governments in ensuring conditions for the frank exchange of opinions in a friendly, informal and intimate atmosphere. The Secretariat

was accorded the following functions: to facilitate and promote consultation both bilaterally and multilaterally among members; to prepare and circulate factual papers on international questions of common concern to all Commonwealth governments; to act as a focal point and a link for various specialized Commonwealth agencies; to undertake studies on various subjects in the economic, social and cultural fields; and to service Commonwealth meetings.

Members have complete freedom to belong to any grouping, association or alliance or, of course, to remain non-aligned. Membership carries no obligation to come to the assistance of another member that may be attacked, though naturally Commonwealth countries would be seriously concerned about such a development. At an earlier stage, commerce was an important cohesive factor but, with the natural processes of economic growth and the liberalization of trade on a multilateral basis following the Second World War, the Commonwealth preference system became relatively less significant, particularly for the more-developed members. This significance has further diminished with Britain's entry into the European Community on January 1, 1973. Nevertheless Commonwealth trade links remain important. Britain has engaged in efforts to assist developing Commonwealth countries in negotiating terms of association with the EEC. Thus, Britain's entry into the Common Market may well contribute to an increase in economic prosperity within the Commonwealth.

The association has grown into a very useful vehicle for consultation at all levels. At the top level, the heads of government of recent years have inclined to a meeting every two years. Their meeting in Ottawa in August 1973 is the third to be held outside of London, the others being in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1966 and Singapore in 1971. Apart from heads of government meetings, there have been numerous regular or periodic meetings of ministers and officials on functional matters and an almost continuous succession of meetings on a broad spectrum of international relations, including law, trade, development assistance, education and youth matters. Through such consultations the Commonwealth continues to act as an instrument for practical international co-operation along functional lines. Economic assistance for the less-developed members has long been a matter of concern. The Colombo Plan was a Commonwealth initiative rising from the consideration of the political and economic problems of South Asia by Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting in Colombo in January 1950. As the plan of assistance emerged in the first few months of 1950, a decision was taken to invite non-Commonwealth countries in the area to participate in the Plan. This was done to ensure economic progress throughout the whole of South and Southeast Asia. Development assistance programs for the Commonwealth countries in Africa and in the West Indies are further examples of the way in which economic assistance has been channeled bilaterally from the wealthier to the less-developed members. A further step toward practical co-operation for development was taken by the heads of government at the Singapore Conference of 1971 in their decision to expand the Commonwealth Program for Technical Co-operation by creating the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, to which all members in a position to do so contribute for activities in the field of training and education.

The Commonwealth has been active in education, where, under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, scholarships are awarded by 16 countries. Since the Plan was launched, over 5,000 awards have been granted throughout the Commonwealth. In a wider context, Commonwealth ministers concerned with youth matters met in Lusaka, Zambia, in January 1973 to complete a Youth Program designed to improve the lot of young people in member countries.

The Commonwealth Foundation was established at the 1965 Prime Ministers' Meeting with the purpose of administering a fund for fostering and increasing interchanges between Commonwealth organizations in professional fields throughout the Commonwealth. Funds for member governments are disbursed to encourage representation at conferences, to facilitate the exchange of visits among professional people, and to assist in organizing professional conferences. Recently the Foundation has been concentrating on encouraging the development of non-governmental associations in a number of newer professional fields.

All such programs⁽⁴⁾ of mutually beneficial action flow from consultation and co-operation at the highest level; indeed, the interchange of thoughts at the heads of government level permits the considerable degree of international co-operation evident today in the modern Commonwealth. Yet the tremendous growth in the number of independent nations participating in the Commonwealth has posed a difficult problem within the association: informality and intimacy, long characteristic of Commonwealth heads of government meetings, were becoming more and more difficult to retain. It was feared that, in an atmosphere of reduced familiarity and the growing importance of regional or interest groupings, discussion of such problems of a world-wide nature as economic disparities might well serve only to bring out differences among members and precipitate acrimonious debate with few constructive results. Therefore, at Singapore in 1971, Commonwealth heads of government welcomed the suggestion that their senior officials meet to study the loss of informality in executive meetings and to recommend means by which informality and flexibility could be restored. They also welcomed the Canadian suggestion to direct senior officials to prepare for their discussion a subject of practical concern to all heads of government: comparative techniques of government. Senior officials met for most fruitful discussions in Ottawa in October 1972 and formulated proposals on both subjects for consideration by heads of government in advance of their 1973 meeting in Ottawa from August 2 to 10, 1973.

(4)

In addition to the joint undertaking by member governments of these official programs, there is a wide variety of Commonwealth organizations (more than 200) active in the non-governmental field.

Commonwealth Countries

Note: Members of the Commonwealth (or Commonwealth of Nations) include Britain and those independent countries formerly governed by Britain which have chosen to become members. Dependent territories such as colonies, protectorates and trust territories of Britain and other member countries may be described as within the Commonwealth in that they are territories of member countries, but they are not "members" of the Commonwealth, for only sovereign independent states are accepted as such. Nauru, which became independent in January 1968, is associated with the Commonwealth as a special member entitled to participate in all functional meetings and activities and is eligible for Commonwealth technical assistance, but does not take part in meetings of Commonwealth heads of government. The prefix "British" before "Commonwealth" and the term "Dominion" are no longer used. (*Denotes the date on which dominion status was acquired.)

| <u>Member Countries</u> | <u>Population</u> | <u>Date of Membership</u> | <u>Capital</u> | <u>Constitutional Status (Monarchy or Republic)</u> | <u>Accredited Canadian Post (H.C. - High Commission) (Emb. - Embassy)</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Australia | 12,881,100 | 1 January 1901* | Canberra | M (Br.) | H.C. - Canberra |
| Bahamas | 168,812 | 10 July 1973 | Nassau | M (Br.) | H.C. - Kingston |
| Bangladesh | 75,000,000 | 18 April 1972 | Dacca | R | H.C. - Dacca |
| Barbados | 238,000 | 30 November 1966 | Bridgetown | M (Br.) | H.C. - Port of Spain |
| Botswana | 625,900 | 30 September 1966 | Gaborone | R | Emb. - Pretoria |
| Britain | 55,534,000 | | London | M (Br.) | H.C. - London |
| Canada | 22,000,000 | 1 July 1867* | Ottawa | M (Br.) | |
| Cyprus | 640,000 | 13 March 1961 | Nicosia | R | Emb. - Tel Aviv |
| Fiji | 524,500 | 10 October 1970 | Suva | M (Br.) | H.C. - Canberra |
| The Gambia | 320,000 | 18 February 1965 | Banjul (Bathurst) | R | Emb. - Dakar |
| Ghana | 8,500,000 | 6 March 1957 | Accra | R | H.C. - Accra |
| Guyana | 714,000 | 26 May 1966 | Georgetown | R | H.C. - Georgetown |
| India | 546,955,900 | 15 August 1947 | New Delhi | R | H.C. - New Delhi |
| Jamaica | 1,861,300 | 6 August 1962 | Kingston | M (Br.) | H.C. - Kingston |
| Kenya | 11,247,000 | 12 December 1963 | Nairobi | R | H.C. - Nairobi |
| Lesotho | 1,000,000 | 4 October 1966 | Maseru | M (Nat'l) | Emb. - Pretoria |
| Malawi | 4,312,400 | 6 July 1964 | Lilongwe | R | H.C. - Lusaka |
| Malaysia | 10,434,000 | 31 August 1957 | Kuala Lumpur | M (Nat'l) | H.C. - Kuala Lumpur |
| Malta | 322,300 | 21 September 1964 | Valetta | M (Br.) | Emb. - Rome |
| Mauritius | 854,000 | 12 March 1968 | Port Louis | M (Br.) | H.C. - Dar-es-Salaam |
| Nauru | 6,600 | 31 January 1968 | Nauru | R | |
| | | | (special member) | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| New Zealand | 2,860,500 | 26 September 1907* | M (Br.) | H.C. - Wellington |
| Nigeria | 60,000,000 | 1 October 1960 | R | H.C. - Lagos |
| Sierra Leone | 2,183,000 | 27 April 1961 | R | H.C. - Freetown |
| Singapore | 2,110,400 | 15 October 1965 | R | H.C. - Singapore |
| Sri Lanka (Ceylon) | 12,747,800 | 4 February 1948 | M (Br.) | H.C. - Colombo |
| Swaziland | 420,000 | 6 September 1968 | M (Nat'1) | Emb. - Pretoria |
| Tanzania | 12,231,300 | 9 December 1961 | R | H.C. - Dar-es-Salaam |
| Tonga | 89,900 | 4 June 1970 | M (Nat'1) | H.C. - Dar-es-Salaam |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1,128,800 | 31 August 1962 | M (Br.) | H.C. - Port of Spain |
| Uganda | 9,548,800 | 9 October 1962 | R | H.C. - Kampala |
| Western Samoa | 143,500 | 28 August 1970 | M (Nat'1) | H.C. - Apia |
| Zambia | 4,057,000 | 24 October 1964 | R | H.C. - Lusaka |
| Total | 861,661,000 | | | |

Appendix BDependent Territories

Note: Southern Rhodesia, at the time of its illegal declaration of independence, was self-governing but had not attained the status of a member of the Commonwealth; the Cook Islands have full internal self-government, but have chosen to be associated with New Zealand (Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens), which remains responsible for the external affairs and defence of the territory; Antigua, Brunei, Dominica, Grenada, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent have full internal self-government but have chosen to be associated with Britain, which remains responsible, in consultation with the islands, for external affairs and defence.

| <u>Dependent Territory</u> | <u>Dependency of</u> | <u>Sq. Miles</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Bermuda | Britain | 20.59 | 53,000 |
| British Antarctic Territory | Britain | 500,000 (approx) | 100 |
| British Honduras | Britain | 8,866 | 119,863 |
| British Indian Ocean Territory | Britain | 21,000 | 550 |
| British Virgin Islands | Britain | 59 | 10,484 |
| Cayman Islands | Britain | 100 | 10,249 |
| Falkland Islands | Britain | 4,700 | 2,066 |
| Gibraltar | Britain | 2.25 | 26,833 |
| Hong Kong | Britain | 398 | 3,950,802 |
| Montserrat | Britain | 39.5 | 12,300 |
| Pitcairn Island | Britain | 1.75 | 100 |
| St. Helena | Britain | 47 | 4,952 |
| Ascension | Britain | 34 | 1,232 |
| Tristan da Cunha | Britain | 38 | 280 |
| Seychelles | Britain | 107 | 52,811 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | Britain | 166 | 5,675 |
| British Solomon Islands Protectorate | Britain | 11,500 | 160,998 |
| New Hebrides | Administered as Anglo-French Condominium | 5,700 | 81,000 |
| Gilbert and Elice Islands | Britain | 283 | 53,517 |
| Southern Rhodesia | Britain | 150,820 | 5,310,000 |
| Norfolk Island | Australia | 15 | 1,509 |
| Australian Antarctic Territory | Australia | 2,333,624 | --- |
| Heard Island and McDonald Islands | Australia | Unavailable | --- |
| Cocos Islands | Australia | 5.5 | 622 |
| Christmas Islands | Australia | 52 | 3,524 |
| Papua | Australia | 86,100 | 598,268 |
| New Guinea | Australia | 92,160 | 1,700,000 |
| Ross Dependency | New Zealand | 160,000 | --- |
| Niue | New Zealand | 100 | 5,183 |
| Tokelau Islands | New Zealand | 2,500 (acres) | 1,687 |

Commonwealth Declaration

The Commonwealth of Nations is a voluntary association of independent sovereign states, each responsible for its own policies, consulting and co-operating in the common interests of their peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace.

Members of the Commonwealth come from territories in the six continents and five oceans, include peoples of different races, languages and religions, and display every stage of economic development from poor developing nations to wealthy industrialized nations. They encompass a rich variety of cultures, traditions and institutions. Membership of the Commonwealth is compatible with the freedom of member governments to be non-aligned or to belong to any other grouping, association or alliance.

Within this diversity all members of the Commonwealth hold certain principles in common. It is by pursuing these principles that the Commonwealth can continue to influence international society for the benefit of mankind.

WE BELIEVE that international peace and order are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind; we therefore support the United Nations and seek to strengthen its influence for peace in the world, and its efforts to remove the causes of tension between nations.

WE BELIEVE in the liberty of the individual, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, colour, creed or political belief, and in their inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which they live. We therefore strive to promote in each of our countries those representative institutions and guarantees for personal freedom under the law that are our common heritage.

WE RECOGNIZE racial prejudice as a dangerous sickness threatening the healthy development of the human race and racial discrimination as an unmitigated evil of society. Each of us will vigorously combat this evil within our own nation. No country will afford to regimes which practise racial discrimination assistance which in its own judgment directly contributes to the pursuit or consolidation of this evil policy. We oppose all forms of colonial domination and racial oppression and are committed to the principles of human dignity and equality. We will therefore use all our efforts to foster human equality and dignity everywhere and to further the principles of self-determination and non-racialism.

WE BELIEVE that the wide disparities in wealth now existing between different sections of mankind are too great to be tolerated; they also create world tensions; our aim is their progressive removal; we therefore seek to use our efforts to overcome poverty, ignorance and disease, in raising standards of life and achieving a more equitable international society. To this end our aim is to achieve

the freest possible flow of international trade on terms fair and equitable to all, taking into account the special requirements of the developing countries, and to encourage the flow of adequate resources, including governmental and private resources, to the developing countries, bearing in mind the importance of doing this in a true spirit of partnership and of establishing for this purpose in the developing countries conditions which are conducive to sustained investment and growth.

WE BELIEVE that international co-operation is essential to remove the causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice and secure development amongst the peoples of the world; we are convinced that the Commonwealth is one of the most fruitful associations for these purposes.

In pursuing these principles the members of the Commonwealth believe that they can provide a constructive example of the multi-national approach which is vital to peace and progress in the modern world. The association is based on consultation, discussion and co-operation. In rejecting coercion as an instrument of policy they recognise that the security of each member state from external aggression is a matter of concern to all members. It provides many channels for continuing exchanges of knowledge and views on professional, cultural, economic, legal and political issues among member states. These relationships we intend to foster and extend for we believe that our multi-national association can expand human understanding and understanding among nations, assist in the elimination of discrimination based on differences of race, colour or creed, maintain and strengthen personal liberty, contribute to the enrichment of life for all, and provide a powerful influence for peace among nations.

Appendix D

Some Commonwealth Conferences from 1971

1971

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------------------|
| January | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 4th Quinquennial Commonwealth Law Conference | Singapore New Delhi |
| February | 5th Commonwealth Education Conference | Canberra |
| May | 20th Parliamentary Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association | London |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers and Officials Preceding World Health Assembly | Geneva |
| June | Commonwealth Engineering Conference | London |
| July | 3rd Quinquennial Conference of the Commonwealth Council of the Royal Life Saving Society | London |
| | Commonwealth Asian and Pacific Countries Regional Seminar on Youth | Kuala Lumpur |
| August | Commonwealth Survey Officers' Conference | Cambridge |
| | Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association | Kuala Lumpur |
| September | Commonwealth Librarians' Conference | London |
| | Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting (annual) | Nassau |
| October | Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrations | London |
| | Conference on Consular Relations in the Commonwealth | London |
| | Commonwealth Information Officials Conference | London |
| November | 3rd Commonwealth Medical Conference | Port Louis |
| | Commonwealth Youth Officials' Conference | London |

1972

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| February | Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting | London |
| | Caribbean Health Ministers' Conference | Guyana |
| March | 6th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers | London |
| May | Meeting of Commonwealth Health Officials Preceding World Health Assembly | Geneva |
| | 2nd National Conference on Commonwealth Youth Exchange | London |
| | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association 4th African Regional Conference | Bathurst |
| June | Conference of Chief Commissioners of the Girl Guides Association in the Commonwealth | Kingston, Jamaica |
| | 10th Commonwealth Defence Conference on Operational Clothing and Combat Equipment | Kingston, Canada |
| | Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Association of Architects | London |
| | 25th Congress of the Federation of the Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce | London |
| | 40th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Countries League | London |
| July | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Ninth Caribbean Regional Conference | St. Lucia |
| | 2nd Meeting of Commonwealth officials to discuss future relations with EEC | London |
| August | Inaugural Meeting of Provisional Council for Post-Graduate Medical Education in Commonwealth West African Countries | Lagos |
| | Commonwealth Conference of Teachers Organization | Cambridge |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Committee on Mineral Resources and Geology | Montreal |
| | International Entomological Conference Common- wealth participants financed by Commonwealth Foundation | Canberra |

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: 13th Canadian Regional Conference | Winnipeg |
| | 8th Meeting of the Commonwealth Air Transport Council | London |
| September | Meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers (annual) | London |
| | 6th Council Meeting of Commonwealth Medical Association | Accra |
| | 8th Conference of Commonwealth Auditors- General | London |
| October | 9th Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference | Nairobi |
| | Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting | Ottawa |
| | 7th Biennial Meeting of Commonwealth Scientific Committee | Canberra |
| | Annual Meeting of Executive Committee of Commonwealth Association of Architects | Nicosia |
| | Heads of Government of Commonwealth Caribbean Countries Meeting | Port of Spain |
| | London Committee of 20 "associable" countries meet to continue consultations on arrangements with the EEC | London |
| | 18th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference | Blantyre |
| November | Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference | Ottawa |
| | Conference of Commonwealth Librarians | Port Louis |
| <hr/> | | |
| <u>1973</u> | | |
| January | Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting | London |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers Concerned with Youth Matters | Lusaka |
| February | 5th Commonwealth Caribbean Health Ministers' Meeting | Roseau, Dominica |
| | Commonwealth Sanctions Committee (regular) | London |
| | Commonwealth Association of Architects: Asian Regional Conference | Ahmedabad, India |

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| April | Commonwealth Metrication Conference | London |
| | Commonwealth Conference on Teacher Education | Nairobi |
| May | Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux Interim Review Conference | London |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Delegates to Annual World Health Assembly | Geneva |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Legal Bureaux | Edinburgh |
| July | 24th World Scout Conference | Nairobi |
| August | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting | Ottawa |
| | 11th Quinquennial Congress of the Association of Commonwealth Universities | Edinburgh |
| | 3rd Commonwealth Magistrates' Conference | Nairobi |
| | Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: 12th Australasian Regional Conference | Melbourne |
| September | Conference on Deafness organized by the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf | Port of Spain |
| | 19th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference | London |
| | Commonwealth Engineering Conference | London or Ottawa |
| | Meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers and Officials | Dar-es-Salaam |
| October | 6th Biennial Conference of Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth | Christchurch |
| | 2nd Conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrations | Port of Spain |
| November | Commonwealth Association of Architects Conference | Ottawa |

Commonwealth Conferences

Colonial Conferences

| | | |
|------|--------|---------------------|
| 1887 | London | April 4 - May 9 |
| 1894 | Ottawa | June 28 - July 9 |
| 1897 | London | June 24 - July 31 |
| 1902 | London | June 30 - August 11 |
| 1907 | London | April 15 - May 14 |

Imperial Conferences

| | | |
|------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1911 | London | May 23 - June 20 |
| 1915 | | did not take place |
| 1917 | London | April 21 - April 27 |
| 1921 | London | June 20 - August 5 |
| 1923 | London | October 1 - November 8 |
| 1926 | London | October 19 - November 23 |
| 1930 | London | October 1 - November 14 |
| 1932 | London | July 21 - August 20 |
| 1937 | London | May 14 - June 15 |

Prime Ministers Meetings

| | | |
|------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1944 | London | May 1 - May 17 |
| 1946 | London | May 1 - May 23 |
| 1948 | London | October 10 - October 22 |
| 1949 | London | April 21 - April 27 |
| 1951 | London | January 4 - January 12 |
| 1953 | London | June 3 - June 9 |
| 1955 | London | January 31 - February 8 |
| 1956 | London | June 27 - July 6 |
| 1957 | London | June 26 - July 5 |
| 1960 | London | May 3 - May 13 |
| 1961 | London | March 8 - March 17 |
| 1962 | London | September 10 - September 19 |
| 1964 | London | July 8 - July 15 |
| 1965 | London | June 17 - June 21 |
| 1966 | Lagos | January 11 - January 12 |
| 1966 | London | September 6 - September 15 |
| 1969 | London | January 7 - January 15 |

Heads of Government Meetings

| | | |
|------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1971 | Singapore | January 14 - January 22 |
| 1973 | Ottawa | August 2 - August 10 |

3 1761 115519621

